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(74) Agent: WILLIAMS, Julian, David; IBM United Kingdom Limited, Intellectual Property Law, Hursley Park, Winchester Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, New York 10504 (US).

(71) Applicant (for MG only): IBM UNITED KINGDOM LIMITED [GB/GB]; PO Box 41 North Harbour, Portsmouth Hampshire PO6 3AU (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PIPER, Andrew, Arthur [GB/GB]; 3 White Leaf House, 142 Alexandra Road, Farnborough Hampshire GU14 6RP (GB). WARRICK, Malcolm, Michael [GB/GB]; 4 The Old Orangery, Ottershaw Park Mansion, Ottershaw Surrey KT16 0QG (GB). WHYTE, James, Richard, Hamilton [GB/GB]; 38 College Road, Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 6AT (GB).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AFFINITY MANAGEMENT

(57) Abstract: A method and system for affinity management in a distributed computer system are provided in which a plurality of addressing entities (311-315) need to be balanced across a plurality of service providers (301-304) whilst maintaining group affinities within the addressing entities. An identifier is provided for each of a plurality of addressing entities, wherein the identifier for each member of a group of addressing entities with an affinity is the same group identifier. A list is provided of service providers which are available to be addressed by an addressing entity to provide an instance of a service. The distribution of addressing entities to service providers is managed by an algorithm. The algorithm includes: applying (205) a hash function to the identifier of an addressing entity to obtain a standard integer; dividing (206) the standard integer by the number of service providers and obtaining the modulus; and selecting (207) a service provider by reference to the modulus. The addressing entity is sent to the instance (306) of the service provided by the selected service provider.